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# A PROCLAMATION

By

Governor Dwight H. Green



Destruction of life and property by fire always has been one of our most serious problems. Despite great progress in methods of prevention and control, the destruction continues at an alarming rate.

The estimated property loss in Illinois in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1948, was \$40,000,000, the largest on record. Lives claimed by fire in the same period numbered 352, with many times that number of people injured.

In the nation fire losses in the first six months of this year exceeded those of the entire year 1943.

The inflated values of property account for a considerable portion of the dollar increase, but the trend of fire losses is decidedly upward. Homes are wiped out while we are fighting a housing shortage. Factories are destroyed while we are trying to increase production. Goods of all kinds are consumed when conservation should be the watchword, since it is taxing all of our resources to supply the needs of our own people and those of much of the world both in food and other necessities.

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It is highly important that we pause for a brief period and give serious consideration to the solution of this problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DWIGHT H. GREEN, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby designate and proclaim the period from

*October 3 to 9, 1948*

To be Observed Throughout Illinois as

## ***FIRE PREVENTION WEEK***

It still is true that more than three-fourths of all fires are due to easily preventable causes. The underlying cause is human failure—individual carelessness. Control therefore must start with the individual.

Fire Prevention Week should be observed in every community. Programs should be dramatic and realistic, so that every citizen will understand that his cooperation is necessary to eliminate the simple things which cause most fires.

This educational program should be carried into the schools, not only during Fire Prevention Week, but at regular intervals throughout the year. This is important in order to develop fire-safe habits in the next generation.

City officials should take stock of their fire and building ordinances. Such ordinances should be adequate in every community. A year-round fire prevention program should be maintained.

The State will do all in its power to promote fire safety, but responsibility must also be accepted at the local level if results are to be achieved.

I trust this Fire Prevention Week will awaken all our citizens, present and future, to the seriousness of our fire waste and will be the starting point for effective efforts in reducing it. I request the cooperation



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of fire chiefs, municipal officials, school authorities, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, the press, radio, theater and citizens in general.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, THIS FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT, AND OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH.

*Dwight H. Green*  
Governor.

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## LET US RESOLVE

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That each of us has a stake in preventing fires.

Some careless act of an individual starts almost every fire. All of these fires add up to the devastating loss of property which is sweeping the country. Besides, 10,000 persons die from fire in America each year. Many times that number are injured.

If everyone were careful, very few fires would occur.

I will resolve:

To see that matches and cigarettes are OUT before discarding them.

To have no flammable rubbish or litter on the premises.

To keep flues and heating equipment in safe repair.

To avoid use of gasoline for cleaning.

To NEVER use kerosene for starting fires.

To turn off current when leaving an electric iron.

To have all electrical work done by someone who knows how.

To keep in mind always the danger of fire and to practice fire-safe habits at all times.

JOHN H. CRAIG,

State Fire Marshal.